

U.S. Application Serial No. 10/648,988  
Attorney Docket: 46107-0083  
Reply to Office Action of October 28, 2004

### REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated October 28, 2004. Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended Applicants' representative during the telephone interview regarding the proposed amendments on January 28, 2005. Revisions to the claims and the following remarks are consistent with the matters discussed during the telephone interview.

In the Office Action dated October 28, 2004, the Examiner rejects Claims 7-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,874,250 to Duer. By this response, Applicants cancel withdrawn Claims 1-6, cancel Claim 8, amend Claims 7 and 12 to overcome the Examiner's rejection in view of Duer, amend Claim 9 to make it consistent with the amended base claim, and add new Claims 17-24. For the reasons stated herein, Applicants submit that each of the pending Claims 7 and 9-24 are in a condition for allowance.

Applicants have amended Claims 7 and 12 to clarify that the center section of the biasing element includes a length and that the insertion opening portion of the center opening extends the length of the center section. The insertion opening having approximately the length of the center section allows insertion of a pinion shaft into the center opening through the insertion opening. The insertion opening (D) cited by the Examiner in the Duer reference does not extend the length of the center section. Applicants respectfully submit that the amended independent Claims 7 and 12 clearly define over Duer.

Applicants have also added dependent Claims 17-22 to further define the invention and respectfully submit that Claims 17-22 are a condition for allowance. Applicants have also added new independent Claim 23 along with Claim 24 depending therefrom to further define the invention, and respectfully submit that Claims 23-24 are also in a condition for allowance.

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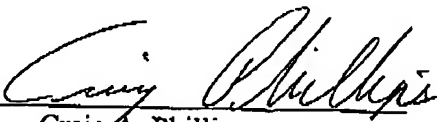
If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 433-7231.

Prompt and favorable consideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 1-28-05

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Enclosures

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